



CENTER SCENE

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

Construction is continuing on the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center near Baker City, Oregon. The grand opening is currently scheduled for May 25, 1992.

The Service Center has provided engineering support for this project in a cooperative effort with the Oregon State Office. Tom Jatko of the Branch of Engineering Services (SC-672) provided civil engineering support; mechanical and electrical engineering support were provided by Vern Reeves and Dennis Grevel, respectively, of the Branch of Building Engineering (SC-673). The Oregon State Office provided architectural, interpretive, and contracting support. This cooperative effort developed the project requirements that the Contractor used as the basis for the design work.

The Interpretive Center is expected to provide a moving, authentic Oregon Trail experience for thousands of visitors each year. Over a quarter million immigrants left their families and friends and traveled the Oregon Trail in search of

new opportunities. Starting at Independence, Missouri, the trail was 2,000 miles of misery and sweat. About 10 percent of the travelers died along the way.

Visitors to the Interpretive Center will learn how the Federal Government, through the General Land Office and then the Bureau of Land Management, encouraged the settlement of the West. BLM will operate the Interpretive Center as a year-round facility. The Bureau manages most of the public lands surrounding the site, and is the prime developer of the 500-plus acre Interpretive Center complex at Flagstaff Hill. The site is expected to include up to 4 miles of barrier-free trails.

The visitor complex will include an Interpretive Building with over 20,000 square feet. From this complex, visitors will have a 15-mile view of the Trail's remaining traces. In the Interpretive Building's gallery, visitors will feel they are walking the trail itself among life-size wagons, riders on horseback, and lifelike trail animals.

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS

The Service Center Social Organization's (SCSO's) annual Christmas party was held at Jubilation Night Club on December 19, 1991. Approximately 45 to 50 BLMers attended, as did the most famous man from the North Pole — Santa. Santa drew numbers and awarded 18 door prizes. The recipients had to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what they wanted for Christmas — a good time was had by all!

There were many new faces in the crowd this year, including the Service Center Director and Associate Director. There were also several from the State Office. If you didn't go, you missed out on a lot of fun. Hope to see you at the next Christmas party!

Richard Banks
SCSO President

AND THE SHUFFLE BEGINS...

Things have been pretty quiet here at the Service Center during the holidays, but that may start to change very soon. The outcome of the Bureau Management Team meeting in November was that at least 18 positions will be coming to the Service Center. Two other positions will either come to the SC or go to the Colorado State Office. This shift in positions is part of the Washington Office downsizing effort to continue to improve the quality and quantity of services to internal staff and external constituencies.

Two of the downsized positions will be coming from Land and Re-

newable Resources; one will be coming from Energy and Minerals Resources. Eight positions, including those associated with safety management, will be coming from Support Services, and seven positions will be coming from Management Services.

Some issues are still unresolved that will eventually impact the Service Center. One issue is the establishment, location, and staffing of a National Resources and Research Center. Another issue involves the establishment and location of teams of engineers.

The moves associated with the downsizing effort will take place in shifts, and are scheduled to be complete by

August 4, 1992. So what will this mean for SC employees in the year ahead? Be prepared to face space issues, budget issues, phone issues, and all that is involved with a major moving effort! It may take awhile to figure out where Washington Office employees went and how you can get in touch with them. So ease yourself into the situation — don't let yourself get too frustrated. Just be willing to do a little shuffling and show a lot of patience! And remember — change is good...isn't it?



HONORARIA BAN STILL IN PLACE

The ban against Federal employees accepting honoraria is still in place as Congress adjourns for the year. The ban, which has been in effect for nearly a year now, does not allow Federal employees to accept money for writing articles, giving speeches, and making other appearances.

The clause regarding the ban is part of the Government Ethics Act, which, among other things, provided for Congressional pay raises. The wording of the clause is of particular concern because of its broad coverage. The ban covers basically everyone who works in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government, and is not limited to those articles, speeches, and appearances that are directly related to a person's job.

How can this affect the average Federal employee? For example, a Federal employee cannot write a joke,

submit it to *Reader's Digest*, and receive payment for it if it is accepted for publication. A computer pro-

about the techniques he/she has developed for growing prize-winning roses. And a Federally employed scientist cannot sell a screenplay he/she has written to a movie producer.

Before adjourning, the House had passed HR-325, a bill to remove the ban so long as the subject matter of articles, speeches, and appearances did not directly relate to employees' official duties. The bill would be retroactive to the ban's beginning. However, the Senate did not schedule a vote before adjourning.

The bill will probably be taken up early in the year. But until it is passed, Federal employees must either moonlight for free, donate payments to charity, put payments into escrow — or risk a maximum \$10,000 penalty or the amount of compensation received, whichever is greater!



grammer employed by the Government cannot accept payment for speaking to a local gardening club

PERSONNEL NEWS

New Employees

Christine L. Brown, Clerk, SC-210
Lydia A. Creager, Structural Engineer, SC-673
Howard S. Kaplan, Architect, SC-673
Elaine B. Tracey, Office Automation Clerk (Staff Assistant), SC-310

Separations

Patricia L. Arnone-Damon, Computer Specialist, SC-344
Jeffrey W. Uhlich, Computer Equipment Analyst, SC-310



BOWL ME OVER!



Congratulations to Karen Humphrey of the Branch of Computer Applications Services — she bowled a 300 game during league bowling on November 8, 1991!